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To the Honorable Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee

I oppose H.B. 1178 and urge you to vote against it.

HB 1178 requires that private small businesses provide paid sick leave to their employees. Connecticut is known as one of the worst states in the US to start and stay in business. With the current inflationary economic climate, it is difficult enough for any business to stay in business, but this is especially the case for small businesses. Often these enterprises have very few employees and operate on slim margins. Businesses in CT already face very high taxes, are heavily regulated, must pay very high utility costs and rents. Paid sick leave for employees increases the costs to businesses, making it more even difficult to stay in business. This is especially so if the business must replace the worker with someone else and therefore pay two salaries for the same work, with no more productivity.

The more inhospitable the economic climate for business in CT becomes, the more businesses will close and many more companies, even small businesses will continue the flight from our state for more business-friendly states. When they close and leave, they take the jobs they provided with them and ultimately those employees will be worse off: unemployed. And our state will continue to decline with higher unemployment than the rest of the country and a shrinking tax base. Without businesses there are no jobs. If you want jobs for your constituents then you cannot continue to dislike and punish businesses and the people who start and run them.

Please vote against H.B. 1178.

Respectfully submitted,
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